

Mayor Gary Pepperling

116 Liberty St
Amsterdam Ohio
43903

March 28, 2018

Dear Mayor Pepperling:

I have received notification from Chief Cimperman of my termination, and the causes that he lists for that termination and I am taking this opportunity to respond and set the record straight on a few of the items he listed in the termination notice. The Chief continues to blame his problems on his officers instead of taking responsibility himself. I will try and explain what happened and the events that caused great concern in the handling of the Police Department. You are the Chief Safety Officer for the Village of Amsterdam and I have a duty to report to you sir the actions of the officers appointed above me that I believe are acting improperly.

Some time ago it was brought to my attention by some of our officers that the Chief was under investigation by the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Office, and other agencies within the state of Ohio. I asked the officers how they knew this and they stated that they had given statements to the investigators concerning the Chiefs activities. Additionally I learned that a Police ID card was taken by one of the investigators from one of our officers during the interview as evidence. I also remembered that during one of my meetings with the Chief he stated to me and another officer that he was going to get some ID cards for new officers, and that he used to make them on an Ohio lottery ID card machine. Knowing all this information, I believed that the seizing of the ID card by the investigator may have been an investigation into the theft of ID cards from the Ohio Lottery Commission. I was concerned that officers employed by the Amsterdam Police Department may be inadvertently walking around with stolen property in their possession. I reached out to this investigator and voiced my concerns and he advised me of the nature of the investigation and asked me some questions about the Chief and his activities with Brandon and part time work. He also assured me that the ID cards was not a concern or focus of the investigation. At no time did I give any written or sworn statement to the investigator, but I did honestly answered his questions about the Chief, and I was even still in possession of the text messages sent to me by the Chief proving the truthfulness of my answers. It is the responsibility of every officer to cooperate with any active criminal investigation.

A short time later I learned that a number of individuals were coming forward that were in possession of Amsterdam Police Identification cards and badges that had been given to them by the Chief. I contacted the State of Ohio OPOTA commission and was advised that these individuals were not listed on our roster and were not actually sworn officers. (see State of Ohio Police Roster Attachment A). Some of these individuals had been given a police badge and ID card and were under the belief that they were sworn officers with our department, however they were not. The responsibility to deliver the SF 400 Swearing in form to the state of Ohio is the host swearing agency, not the officer who is being sworn in. People were believing they were officers, and never really were. I am not sure how many people have a badge and ID card from your police department however I know of several people personally. (see attached photo and badge belonging to Dshaun Thompson Attachment B) Additionally I learned that there was an individual, Eddie Wilson III that was arrested for Kidnapping, Burglary, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon that was in possession of an Amsterdam Police ID Card, and Badge. When asked about this the Chief stated Wilson never filled out the paperwork so he was never really an officer. This is not correct. Again the responsibility to submit the paperwork to the State is that of the host agency, not the officer. Eddie Wilson III even had a letter signed by the Chief that is currently on file with the Tenable Security Company that he is an officer in good standing with the Amsterdam Police Department. This document was signed by the Chief. Wilson cannot be an officer in good standing without the proper paperwork completed and submitted to the State of Ohio. Eddie Wilson recently plead Guilty in court to multiple felonies and is currently incarcerated. (see court record for Eddie Wilson II Attachment C) I have spoke to the Chief about conducting proper background checks on officers and having proper personnel file that may be viewed by yourself and council but he refused. A proper background check protects the village so that discredit and shame won't come to the village or the agency because of officers that should have never been sworn in due to a poor character or criminal behavior, however the Chief failed to act on my requests.

Mr. Mayor as I performed my monthly eight hours at home and at the village during the months of December and January I learned of another action that caused me great concern. I learned that Narcotics had been improperly handled by the Chief and Brandon Lawrence. Upon going through the office looking for keys and other equipment I found a bag of suspected marijuana with a hand written note from Patrolman Brandon Lawrence with a few details of the suspected narcotics. The marijuana may or may not have been laced with other drugs, but it was never sent in for testing. They were not properly secured within an evidence bag and were just thrown into the top open drawer of the desk where anyone with a key to the office could get to them. They were not secured within an evidence bag, there was no chain of custody, and no accompanying report. The evidence was supposedly found in 2016 and I found it in 2018 telling me it had been improperly handled and forgotten about for almost two years. Improperly handling evidence is a very serious offense. (See attached drug photos Attachment D).

I then learned of another incident that cause me great concern. I learned that someone was collecting residents State of Ohio ID Cards and Ohio Drivers Licenses within the Police Department office. (See attached photo Attachment E). Why we would collect these and not properly dispose of them I do not know.

During my tenure with your department I have continuously produced work for the department on my own time at home. First I submitted our Village for the LESO 1033 Federal Property Grant. This grant is for surplus federal property and will be coming back on line shortly. Additionally I have created Memorandum of Understanding between the village of Saline and Bergholz. These are agreements which allow their officers to patrol Amsterdam and ours to help them as well. The Mayors and Police Chiefs wanted to complete this last year already and it was sent to the Chief numerous times with the attached paperwork with no response. (See Attachment F).

All of these incidents and many many more caused me great concern about the actions of the Chief and the level of service towards the village and its residents.

I will quickly address the termination letter sent to me by the Chief (See Attachment G)

In the letter the Chief states that he has spoken with cuyahoga county investigators, and that he has been given a list of the witnesses who gave statements against him, and that he was given the statements of the witnesses in the investigation, and he has accused me of making False or misleading statements to investigators. By accusing me of making a false statement he would have first had to know 1) that I gave a statement, and 2) what that statement was. I stand by all the answers I gave to the investigators as honest and true to the best of my knowledge. Second the Chief states that I was in contact with Brandon and that he was some kind of fugitive. This is almost correct because I went on patrol with Brandon. During the Christmas lighting ceremony one year the Chief explained to me that Brandon had been arrested by another agency. I asked what for and the Chief stated for some kind of assault. The Chief knew of this prior to allowing me to patrol with Brandon and therefore he was aware of Brandon's status for a very long time and took no proper action. Additionally that Chief states that I failed to perform my mandatory eight hours each month, however this is not true as I work on the grants and paperwork from my house, see attachments, and have done eight hours during the month of December and January. Other then the Chief allowing Brandon to work as a police Officer after he had been arrested, not one item in the termination letter was correct, and after speaking with my attorney I was informed that it may be considered slanderous because the Chief has not one shred of evidence that I made any false or misleading statement and yet he accuses me of doing just that.

As far as department equipment I have nothing that belongs to the department except a set of keys from the Police department which I will send in the mail. I left my ID card in the office on the 29th of March. The badge I purchased myself and is my own property.

Mayor Pepperling in closing I would tell you that I have gone through the paperwork within your department and saw that the old Chief had the reports and personnel files well organized and seemed to be doing what is required by law. I would recommend that you replace Chief Cimperman as soon as possible and get someone who cares about the village and its residents and is going to do things properly for the village, not himself. I appeal to you to overturn my termination by Chief Cimperman and return me to active status Thank you .

If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me. I enjoyed my service to your village tremendously and hope the village continues to grow and prosper.

Good Luck sir.

Sincerely

Richard Schilling

Sergeant, Amsterdam Police Department

rschilling652@yahoo.com

216-244-5686

10918 St Mark Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio, 44111

ATTACHMENT A OPOTA roster as of November 2017

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission

Agency Roster Report

Reporting Official's Signature

Date

Officer Name	Officer ID	Date of Birth	Source	Start Date	End Date	Status	Deceased Notation
Agency : Amsterdam Police Department							
Balli, Matthew James	76170	3/3/1970	A	11/1/2016		Part-time	☐
Belknap, Brett M	107737	9/12/1971	A	10/31/2016		Special	☐
Brettrager, Henry H.	98508	9/14/1964	A	10/13/2015		Special	☐
Cimperman, Jr., David F.	83837	6/29/1964	A	7/7/2015		Full-time	☐
Comerford, Daniel P.	127330	2/23/1978	A	9/26/2016		Special	☐
Davis, Ashlynn B.	150725	2/6/1981	A	4/7/2017		Special	☐
Dolbin, Nick Waher	184041	11/24/1968	A	10/5/2015		Full-time	☐
Falinski, Giles Laurence	73006	1/22/1950	A	2/7/2016		Special	☐
Fruth, Joshua T.	181789	4/22/1988	A	1/30/2017		Part-time	☐
Glover, Gary J	138118	8/23/1953	A	4/13/2016		Special	☐
Gorse, Matthew Louis	207947	7/13/1982	A	2/29/2016		Special	☐
Hopkins, Li	57075	5/16/1964	A	6/1/2017		Special	☐
Justus, Jack J.	84805	1/8/1961	A	7/8/2015		Part-time	☐
Justus, Jr., Estel L.	55615	9/3/1954	A	9/1/2015		Part-time	☐
McGrath, Stacy E.	148162	5/28/1972	A	1/14/2016		Special	☐
McInnes, Ian W.	199216	7/23/1983	A	12/19/2016		Special	☐
Mitchell, William H.	142287	3/6/1970	A	3/16/2017		Part-time	☐
Nicholson, Robert J.	174920	10/27/1979	A	11/6/2016		Special	☐
Schilling, Richard G.	129340	11/16/1967	A	8/16/2016		Special	☐
Valdez, Jr., Luis John	104964	10/16/1966	A	2/25/2016		Special	☐
Wheeler, Terry L.	119486	8/23/1966	A	6/28/2016		Special	☐

ATTACHMENT B Dshaun Thompson ID card and badge



ATTACHMENT C

Eddie Wilson case information

Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts - Case Summary 4/3/18, 10:36 AM

Print

CASE INFORMATION

CR-17-617423-A THE STATE OF OHIO vs. EDDIE WILSON III

Case Information

Number: CR-17-617423-A
Status: CASE CLOSED
Judge Name: SHANNON M GALLAGHER
Next Event: N/A
Arrested Date: N/A
Arresting Agency: BEDFORD HEIGHTS
Arresting Agency Report: N/A
Court of Appeals Case: N/A

Defendant Information

Number: 14104338
Name: EDDIE WILSON III
Status: DEFN JAIL
Date of Birth: 08/11/1985
Race: BLACK
Sex: MALE
Other Cases: N/A
Co-Defendants: N/A

Charges

Type	Statute	Description	Disposition
INDICT	2905.01.A(3)	KIDNAPPING	DISMISS P/T
INDICT	2911.13.A	BREAKING AND ENTERING	PLD GLTY- N/C LIO-AMEND @ P/T
INDICT	2903.13.A	ASSAULT	PLD GLTY- N/C - IND @ P/T
INDICT	2923.12.A(2)	CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS	PLD GLTY- N/C - IND @ P/T

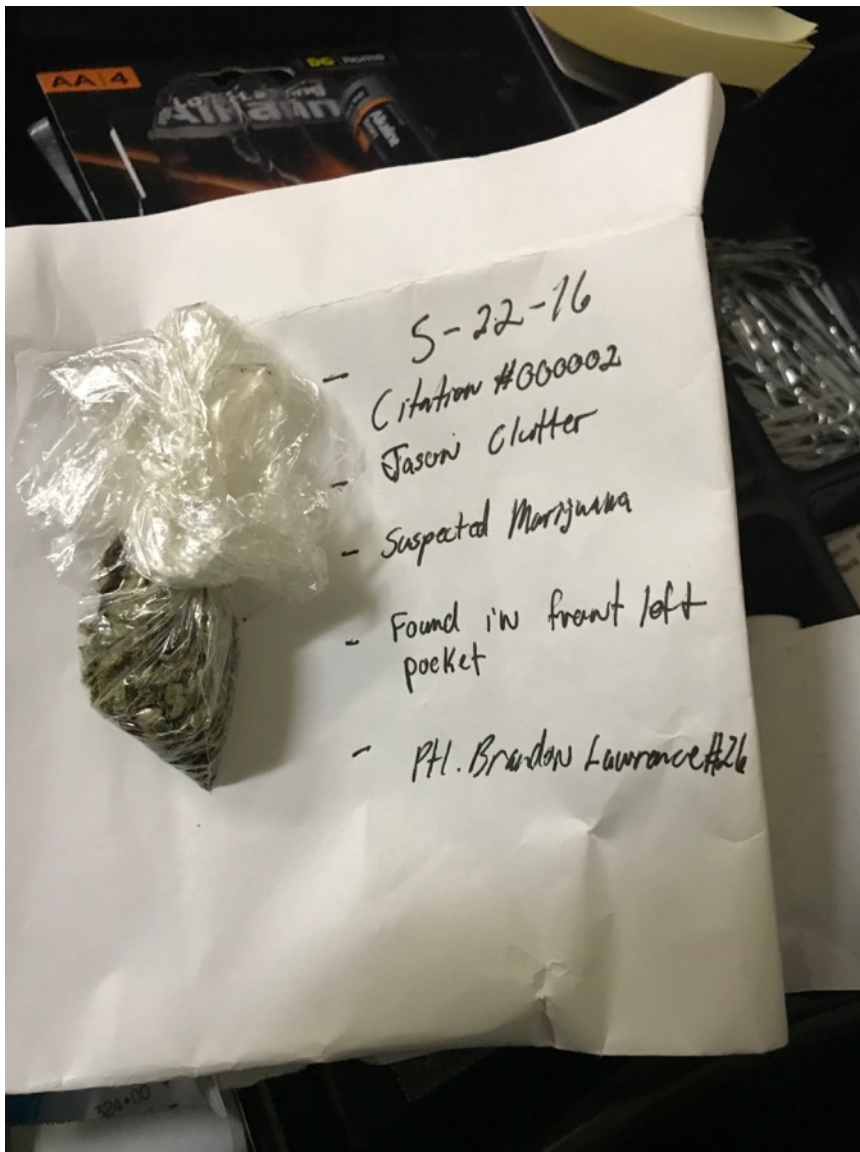
Bond Information

Bond Number	Amount	Type	Date Set	Date Posted	Bondsman/Surety Co.
695749	\$10,000.00	10% CASH	05/08/2017	05/08/2017	10% CASH / EDDIE WILSON III
697482	\$50,000.00	CASH/SURETY/PROP.	06/28/2017	06/30/2017	COATS/GWENDOLYN / UNIVERSAL INS CO

https://cpdocket.cp.cuyahogacounty.us/CR_CaseInformation_Summary.aspx?q=AyiIMwSs03-VGBIY604SaQ2&isprint=Y Page 1 of 2

ATTACHMENT D

found in open drawer in police department



ATTACHMENT E ID cards and licenses seized by Amsterdam PD



ATTACHMENT F Emails advising the Chief or paperwork completed and mutual aid agreements

From: **Richard Horst Schilling** rschilling652@yahoo.com
Subject: salineville village mutual aid proposal agreement
Date: December 12, 2016 at 10:09 PM
To: Amsterdampd24 Amsterdampd24@yahoo.com



Chief

Here's a copy of the Salineville Mutual Aid agreement. It should suffice for any K-9 coming in to help granting them full jurisdiction within Amsterdam.

Let me know if you want the Mayors signature on this, it's not necessary but it may be a nice thing to include him in and make him a part of.

Hope your doing well.

Rich



salineville mou.pdf

From: **Richard Schilling** rschilling852@yahoo.com
Subject: Saline of
Date: April 6, 2017 at 1:15 PM
To: **Amsterdam Police** amsterdampd24@yahoo.com
Bcc: **Nick Dolbin** nickd@premierfield.com



Chief.
Just spoke with Chief Matt Devlin, Chief of Saline Pd. Very interested in a mutual aid agreement and would like to meet you someday when you have time. Here's his contact information. Also I'm sending him a sample Mutual aid agreement to his email today.

Additionally Carrolton County has not returned any inquiries as of yet.

Matt devlin. Chief Saline PD

330-606-2886

K9svpd@gmail.com

Rich Schilling

ATTACHMENT G Letter of Termination from the Village of Amsterdam Police
Department

Mr. Schilling,

Your services with the Amsterdam Village police department auxiliary are hereby terminated, Effective 03/29/2018 at 12 noon.

On several instances, you knowingly provided false information to Investigators, Officers, or agents of other law enforcement services/ agencies. You conducted yourself in a manner that brings discredit to this agency by discussing internal matters with outside agencies and officers, again giving false information relating to this agency, as well as spreading criticism of Amsterdam PD officers to officers from outside agencies.

You failed to complete your required 8 hours of time for the last several months. You had a personal relationship with a former officer, even after he was arrested, and at times a fugitive from justice, and in fact conspired with him to continually spread miss information in an effort to make the two of you look better. And finally, you failed to report instances that may bring Amsterdam PD into a poor light with the Chief of Police, and in fact lied to the Chief relating to some of the above mentioned instances.

Contact me immediately to turn in ALL of your Amsterdam PD equipment, including your badge, ID card (s), keys, and Amsterdam PD issued uniforms and equipment.

You are hereby ordered, under penalty of law to cease working in any manner that relies on your commission with the Amsterdam Police Department.

A copy of your termination letter was mailed to your last known address on this date.

David F. Cimperman, Jr.
Chief of Police
Amsterdam Police